

WO-335

c. 1915

Lyle R. Cropper House
Ocean City
Private

The Lyle R. Cropper house is an early twentieth century frame bungalow designed and manufactured by Sears, Roebuck, and Company and then shipped to Ocean City by train. Built around 1915, the frame house has survived relatively unchanged since then, and it exhibits distinctive bungalow style features such as the tapered porch posts and bracketed eaves. Dominating the roof is a large gable dormer that provides light to the second floor rooms. The dormer also features a small balcony.

Construction of this story-and-a-half bungalow is credited to Willard B. Hayman, who purchased this Baltimore Avenue lot in April 1915 from John G. and Ethel M. Scott. At the time the lot sold for \$375, a price that would not have included any substantial improvements. Willard B. Hayman, and his wife, Evelyn, evidently purchased the house parts from Sears, Roebuck, and then financed its construction shortly afterwards. The Haymans retained ownership of their new house for only three years when the couple sold the property to Lyle R. Cropper. The house has remained in Cropper family hands.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Lyle R. Cropper House

MHT Inventory Number: WV-335

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

STANDING STRUCTURE

1. SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-335

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic LYLE R. CROPPER HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4 Baltimore Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Ocean City ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Grace C. Brittingham

street & number 4 Baltimore Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Ocean City state and zip code MD 21842

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court WILL BOOK
liber KJC 28

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 434

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-335

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Lyle R. Cropper house stands at 4 Baltimore Avenue in the center of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame bungalow faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1915, the story-and-a-half, three-bay frame house is supported on a raised and rusticated concrete block foundation, and the house is sheathed with asbestos shingles. Covering the medium pitched gable roof is a layer of asbestos shingles.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a front porch incorporated under the main roof slope. Supported on rusticated, concrete block piers, the porch is distinguished by tapered piers on high, weatherboarded plinths. Paired posts flank the front entrance steps while triple posts support the corners of the porch. Stretching between the plinths is a board railing. The same railing extends down the front steps to the street. The center entrance is flanked by paired single-pane sash windows. Highlighting the roof is a large gabled dormer featuring a center door, flanking windows and a small built-in balcony with a board railing. Similar to the sides of the main block, the eaves to the dormer are extended and underpinned with brackets. A narrow brick stove stack rises through the center of the house.

The south side of the house is an asymmetrical elevation with single pane sash windows lighting the first floor and a paired window piercing the upper gable. The eaves to the roof are extended well beyond the exterior wall, and, like the dormer, have bracketed supports.

The north side is similarly treated with the addition of a bay window.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. W0-335

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Lyle R. Cropper house is an early twentieth century frame bungalow designed by Sears, Roebuck, and Company and shipped to Ocean City by train. Built around 1915, the house has survived relatively unchanged since then and exhibits distinctive bungalow style features such as the tapered porch posts and bracketed eaves. Dominating the roof is a large gabled dormer the provides light to second floor rooms as well as a small balcony. Located at 4 Baltimore Avenue, this well-preserved dwelling contributes to the period character of Ocean City.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Construction of this story-and-a-half bungalow is credited to Willard B. Hayman, who purchased this Baltimore Avenue lot in April 1915 from John G. and Ethel M. Scott. (ODC 19/366) In 1915 the lot sold for \$375, a price that would not have included any substantial improvements. Willard B. Hayman, and his wife, Evelyn, evidently purchased the house parts and financed its construction shortly afterwards. The Haymans retained ownership of the new house for only three years when the couple sold the property to Lyle R. Cropper. The house has remained in family hands.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone

Easting

Northing

B

Zone

Easting

Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title

Paul Touart Architectural Historian

organization

Worcester County

date

2/20/90

street & number

Worcester County Courthouse

telephone

301-632-1194

city or town

Snow Hill

state

MD 21863

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

WO-335
LYLE R. CROPPER HOUSE
4 Baltimore Avenue
Ocean City, Maryland
Chain of title

Will Book
KJC 28/434

Will of Lyle R. Cropper, Sr.

to

Written
5/17/1957
Proved
3/6/1968

Grace Brittingham

First, I give, devise and bequeath
my house and lot, together with the
furnishings therein, located on the
easterly side of Baltimore Avenue
in the Town of Ocean City, Maryland
unto my daughter Grace C. Brittingham

ODC 31/432

Willard B. Hayman
Evelyn Hayman

to

10/1/1918

Lyle R. Cropper

Mortgage-ODC 31/433 \$1200 (balance of
purchase price

ODC 19/366

John G. Scott
Ethel M. Scott

to

4/17/1915

Willard B. Hayman

\$375 all that lot or parcel of land
lying and being situate on the east
side of Baltimore Avenue

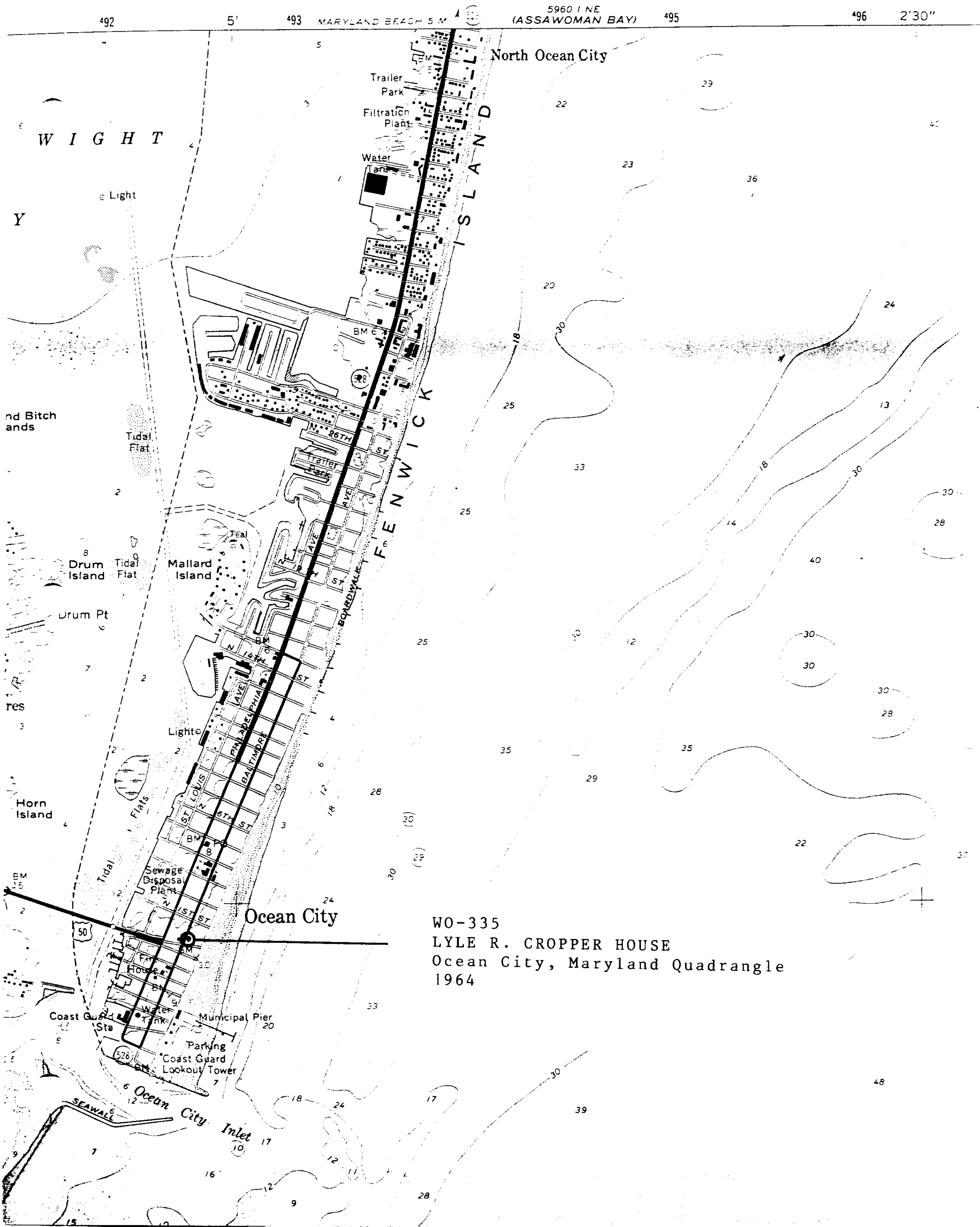
ODC 18/514

Ella H. Purnell, May P. Wharton,
Thomas P. Wharton, and Bessie L.
Purnell, widow and heirs at law of
Clayton J. Purnell

to

1/30/1915

John G. Scott



W0-335

LYLE R. CROPPER HOUSE

Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle
1964